

away on Thursday, August 26 at the 154th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. I join his friends, family, and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Staff Sergeant Belue was a National Guard soldier assigned to Charlie Troop, 1–98th Cavalry Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team. At the time of his passing, Staff Sergeant Belue was attending the Maneuver Senior Leaders Course as a part of his professional military education and career advancement.

He served in the U.S. Armed Forces for 24 years, earning the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Unit Commendation, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award), Armed Forces Reserve Medal, (2nd Award), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and Iraq Campaign medal (with 4 campaign stars). He served on three deployments with the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi National Guard in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005 and again for Operation Enduring Freedom in 2009, then Operation Spartan Shield 2018 to 2019.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of twenty-two years, Jennifer Brents Belue; sons, Blake, Jason, and Bentley; and granddaughter Hazel. He is preceded in death by his grandparents.

I am grateful for Staff Sergeant Belue's years of service to the state of Mississippi and this country.

HONORING ERIN BELL AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a tireless advocate for the refugee community, Ms. Erin Bell, as Iowan of the Week.

Erin runs the non-profit organization “Des Moines Refugee Support” based in Des Moines and the metro area. Erin is known as someone who has a big heart and an even bigger vision for supporting thousands of refugees in central Iowa. Des Moines Refugee Support strives to serve as a voice, friend, and mentor for all refugees as they make a new home in Iowa. Their focus as an organization is on empowerment, and they strive to address shared issues and work together to uplift all communities.

Upon arrival in the United States, refugee families receive about 90 days of assistance from a caseworker to help them learn about their new home. That's not much time when there's so much to learn. Erin's goal is to fill the gaps when refugees arrive in Iowa.

One of the programs designed to help fill the gaps is their youth soccer sponsorship program. Erin saw the passion for soccer among many of the refugee children, and knew she had to find a way to bring their dream of playing organized soccer to life. Des Moines Refugee Support partnered with Des

Moines Soccer club to raise money through the nonprofit to pay for the kids' cleats, shin guards, registration fees and other items associated with playing an organized sport. This has allowed the kids that are brand new to Iowa an opportunity to make new friends, get involved in their community, and of course play soccer.

Advocates like Erin, and organizations like Des Moines Refugee Support, are what makes our Iowa communities across the state such great places to live. I will always fight in Congress to be a voice for refugees, and to ensure Iowa is a welcoming place. It is my pleasure to name Erin Bell as Iowan of the Week.

COMMENDING MR. PAUL COSTELLO ON HIS SERVICE TO THE STATE OF VERMONT

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor my friend Paul Costello, who has served since 2000 as Executive Director of the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), part of the National Rural Development Partnership established by Congress. Although Paul is retiring from VCRD, his legacy will continue in the projects and initiatives that he has inspired in rural communities across Vermont.

Throughout his years as Executive Director, Paul has established himself as a respected neutral facilitator of community conversations. Paul has a unique ability to unite diverse viewpoints and lead people to consensus, action and success. He is dedicated to the ideals of democracy and to the promotion of social and economic opportunity for all Vermonters. He is a patriotic enthusiast for civic engagement, energizing all who venture into his orbit.

Among his many activities, Paul coordinates the annual VCRD Governor's Rural Summit to build federal and state cross-agency action plans. Each year he facilitates multiple community visits with teams of state, federal, non-profit and private leaders to help rural communities evaluate and prioritize opportunities, develop action plans, connect to resources and rally to action.

Over the past twenty years, Paul has produced and facilitated numerous Vermont Policy Councils and Community Development efforts including the Vermont Forest Products Council, the Vermont Agriculture Viability Council, the Vermont Council on Culture and Innovation, the Vermont Council on Planning, the Vermont Rural Energy Council, the VT Creative Communities Program, the Council on the Future of Vermont, the Vermont Working Landscape Council, the Vermont Working Landscape Partnership, and the Vermont Working Lands Coalition, the e-Vermont Community Broadband Project and Vermont Digital Economy Project, the Vermont Higher Education Food Systems Council, and the Vermont Climate Change Economy Council. Most recently, Paul has chaired the Governor's Covid-19 Local Support and Community Action Team.

A native Vermonter, Paul obtained his B.A. and M.A. at the University of Vermont and

earned a PhD in intellectual history at McGill University in Montreal. He has devoted a substantial part of his career to the cultivation of Vermont civic institutions, and the state is a better place because of it. I wish him a productive and fulfilling retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF WAYNE FREEDMAN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Wayne Freedman, one of the Bay Area's most intrepid television reporters and a fixture on ABC 7 for 30 years who is retiring after a remarkable and award-winning career.

Wayne has covered a vast variety of events here at home and abroad, from major earthquakes, fires, and hurricanes, to national and local elections, to major sports events, to the September 11th attacks, to the COVID-19 pandemic, to NASA space missions, to beached whales. In 1992, ABC 7 sent him solo to Moscow to cover Russia's Second Revolution. He traveled across the U.S. by train visiting small towns to capture the pulse of America after 9/11. No matter the content of a story, Wayne will get to the truth and he has a knack for finding the human angle that resonates with viewers. He likes to put it this way: “My philosophy is to find, small stories within large ones, and large stories in the small ones. Those are the most telling.”

His philosophy and work have earned him over 50 Emmy Awards and several Edward R. Murrow awards. Many of his pieces were picked up by ABC's national show World News Tonight. Wayne is also the author of a book that is required reading in several college journalism programs in the U.S., Canada, and Europe, *It Takes More Than Good Looks To Succeed at Television News Reporting*.

Television is part of the Freedman family's DNA. Wayne's father, Mike Freedman, started working for the ABC network in 1948. He pioneered the use of live, hand-held video cameras for covering news and sports events. As soon as Wayne could walk, his dad took him into the field with him.

Wayne had his first byline in 1968 when he started writing a weekly column about life in middle school for a paper that is now the Los Angeles Daily News. That same summer he worked in San Francisco as a grip for ABC on a profile about heavyweight boxing champion Sonny Liston.

Wayne received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from UCLA in 1977 and his Master's Degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri at Columbia in 1978. In 1981 he moved to San Francisco from where he has been reporting ever since. Before he joined ABC 7 in 1991, he worked for CBS News traveling the country to produce a weekly segment called *Only in America* for CBS This Morning.

For those who have seen Wayne Freedman reporting out in the field, they will have noticed an ever-present still camera in his hand with which he snaps behind the scenes photographs that he posts on social media. It's an eye-opening way to see the world from Wayne's perspective.

Wayne and his wife Susan live in Marin County. They are the proud parents of daughter Lauren who lives in New York.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to rise with me to recognize Wayne Freedman for his lifelong passion for storytelling and his ability to transfer that passion to his viewers. He is an outstanding journalist who has thrived throughout decades of changes in the journalism profession.

While we will miss his booming voice and captivating presence on our TV screens and smart phones, we wish him well in his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ROBERT LANCE "BOBBY" CRABTREE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Major Bobby Crabtree who passed away on Thursday, August 26 at North Mississippi Medical Center. He served with the Mississippi Army National Guard within the HHC, 115th Armored Brigade in Tupelo.

Bobby was born in Louisiana to William and Aleta Best Crabtree. He was raised in Houma and graduated from H.L. Bourgeois High School. He studied Business Administration at Nicholls State University in Louisiana and began his career at Sears. In 2002 he was transferred to Tupelo, where he retired and began his career as a truck driver.

Bobby served for twenty-three years in the Mississippi Army National Guard and retired as a Major. He was deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was an active member of the Orchard Church in Tupelo. He was a lifelong LSU football fan, but gladly cheered for Mississippi State, where his sons attended. In his free time he played bass guitar and fished.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Pamela Smith Crabtree; sons Wesley, Matthew, and Lance; his mother, Aleta; and brother, Billy.

I am grateful for Major Crabtree's many years of service to the state of Mississippi and I join his family, friends, and loved ones in grieving his loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF RONALD HADDAD AND THE DEARBORN POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Ronald Haddad of the Dearborn Police Department who was recently chosen to be featured in the National Law Enforcement Museum's new exhibit: Post-9/11: The Evolution of American Law Enforcement. His honorable years of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Two decades after the terrorist attacks on our nation that shook the world, we remember

the lives lost on that terrible day. Dearborn, Michigan is home to the largest Arab American and Muslim populations in the United States and faced unique challenges in the days and months following the horrendous attacks by extremists. Muslim-owned businesses and mosques faced threats, Islamophobia, and hatred—but the Dearborn police ensured their safety and routinely checked in on our neighbors.

For their courageous actions in the face of hate, Chief Haddad and the Dearborn Police Department are featured in an exhibit on post-9/11 policing at the National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington, D.C. Though Chief Haddad was working in Detroit on September 11th, he took it upon himself to work with area police departments to build relationships with the Arab American community and to do what was needed to protect them amidst rising hatred.

Chief Haddad became Dearborn's first Arab American police chief in 2008, as well as the first Arab American police chief in Michigan. He serves on several state and national advisory boards, including on the Law Enforcement Immigration Reform Commission.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chief Ronald Haddad for his invaluable service to the Dearborn Police Department and for his lasting impact on our community following the events of September 11, 2001. Chief Haddad and the Dearborn Police Department are hardworking, everyday heroes that we are fortunate to have here in Michigan.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF JAMES "HONDO" GEURTS

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James "Hondo" Geurts. After retiring from the Air Force as a colonel, Hondo served in the Senior Executive Service as United States Special Operations Command's Acquisition Executive as well as Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. He is formally retiring again after continuing his faithful service by performing the duties of the Under Secretary of the Navy. He is not only an advocate for the hardworking men and women of Northeast Wisconsin, but also a dedicated patriot in service to his Nation.

During his more than 30 years of service, Hondo served for 22 years in uniform as acquisition program manager with engineering and in program management leadership positions in numerous weapon systems. As a defense civilian, Hondo served in all levels of defense-related acquisition leadership including Acquisition Executive, Program Executive Officer, and Program Manager of a variety of Major Defense Acquisition Programs to include ballistic missiles, surveillance platforms, tactical fighter aircraft, advanced avionics systems, stealth cruise missiles, training systems, and manned and unmanned special operations aircraft.

After retiring from the Air Force, Hondo served an additional 8 years as Acquisition Executive for USSOCOM and Assistant Sec-

retary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition until Feb. 2021 when he was designated as performing the duties of the Under Secretary of the Navy.

Amidst his commitment as a service member, acquisitions leader, and performing the duties of Under Secretary of the Navy, his greatest contribution to both national security and to the people of Northeast Wisconsin has been his incredible work on the frigate program. Thanks to his uncommon skill and unparalleled dedication, the world is a safer place. I am incredibly thankful for his selfless and dedicated service.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in applauding James "Hondo" Geurts for his patriotism and inspiring service to a grateful Nation.

REMEMBERING RONN MEREDITH

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my longtime friend, Ronn Meredith. I want to extend my deepest sympathies to his wife Marni, his children Cole, Ava and Reese, and the rest of his family. We know how heartbroken they are, and we all share in their grief of losing such a wonderful human being at such a young age. He truly loved Marni and their children with his entire being and his eyes twinkled whenever he spoke about them. I know he will continue to love his family night and day and his love will never fade away.

I first met Ronn in college as we were both members of the Delta tau Delta fraternity. To say Ronn was a big personality is an understatement. I can honestly say, in all my life, I never met anyone quite like Rondo. He was smart, had a great sense of humor, and unquestionably the best laugh in the business. His family and friends were always number 1, but his second love was Cleveland sports (which if you've followed sports for the last 50 years, wasn't always an easy task).

His energy was absolutely electric. He could express himself on such a wide array of subjects and was passionate about so many things, from golfing to the Grateful Dead. What's more is he could comfortably banter with CEO's on the links, as easily as he could jam out with a 75-year-old hippy at a live show. He could have fun with longtime friends or a new acquaintance; an old-timer or a little kid. They all loved him as he did them, because through him we could feel his lust for life. That's what made him unique. That is what made him special. But no matter who his company, these interchanges almost always ended with a lot of laughs and a room full of love. We all just wish we had one more Saturday night with him. One more chance to ramble on with Rondo.

It's hard to lose a guy like Ronn because he was always just so full of life. His cup was always full, and he made you feel like your cup was full too. He innately knew that the happiest people don't have the best of everything, they just make the best of everything. He drank from the fountain that was not made from the hands of men. He was special that way. He understood at a deep level that we